



Volume 39

Issue 9

Established 1975

THE Rowe Goal Post

September 2020

Classic



photo by Meredith Sokol

“When summer gathers up her robes of glory, And, like a dream, glides away.” — Sarah Helen Whitman

Town Clerk

Submitted by Paul McLatchy III

Like everything else, voting has become more challenging with the pandemic. Finding people to work, having adequate space for a polling location, and utilizing other methods of casting ballots has changed the way we conduct our elections. While this has been a great learning experience for town clerks across the state, it has also pushed what is already a stressful process into overdrive. I thank the people of Rowe for making this easier for me by submitting requests early, being patient for their ballots, and for being respectful and friendly during in-person early voting. It makes a big difference.

The polling location for the September 1 primary was changed to the Fire Station due to spacing requirements set by the state. These requirements wouldn't have been attainable in either the fitness center or the downstairs conference room. Thank you to the Board of Selectmen for supporting this change, and to Chief Annear for the use of the bays. More information will be included in the October Goal Post regarding the results, but in the meantime, they will be on the website as of September 2nd. I had originally hoped to use the school for the November election, but with the pandemic that may not be advisable. It is therefore most likely going to remain at the Fire Station until either the school is suitable and/or restrictions change allowing for it to be moved back into town hall.

Without exception, everyone who applied for an early ballot by mail also applied for the November election. If you received a ballot for the primary and want to vote by mail in November, no further action is needed on

your part. Like the primary, in-person voting will also be held. You can also apply for a mail-in ballot for the November election if you haven't already.

I am starting to work with appointed and elected officials to update their conflict of interest (COI) trainings and open meeting law (OML) papers. Many people have completed their COI and OML summary sheets, but many have not yet completed the online COI training that is required of all officials and town employees. Links are available under the town clerk's page on the website.

The two bylaw changes that were passed at the annual town meeting by voters were approved by the attorney general's office and are now in effect. One bylaw added new revolving funds and the second changed the role of the Finance Committee in the budget process.

I am always looking for election workers, so if you are interested, please contact me. As of the time of writing this article, I will likely have to apply for waivers for staffing due to a shortage of interested individuals. Work is easy, paid, and meals are provided. With recent legislation, workers do not have to be registered voters or residents of Rowe to serve at elections in 2020. Therefore, if you have a friend or family member that is looking for some extra work, please have them reach out to me.

Joanne Semanie was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacant seat on the Cemetery Commission. There is still an open seat on the Planning Board. This is an important position to fill, please consider volunteering.

Thank you all for your support and understanding these past few months. You have made this process far less stressful than it could have been.

From the Town Hall

Submitted by Janice Boudreau

Highway Dept: In Highway Dept. news, you have noticed the King's Highway Bridge Replacement project is well underway. A temporary bridge, on loan from the Town of Shelburne for a modest fee, was installed on August 7th. Paving on Pond Road was completed in mid-August, earlier than expected.

In other good news, we were notified in early August about the award of \$500,000.00 from the Mass State Small Bridge Grant Program. Administrative Assistant Paul McLatchy III applied for the grant for the Ford Hill project, which has a failed culvert, and by new standards, was reclassified as a small bridge. The Selectmen decided to obtain preliminary quotes for the engineering and construction estimates to better plan for future budget considerations.

Selectmen signed letters to be sent to the Conference Committee in the State Senate requesting assistance for rebuilding Yankee Road which is in subsidence and rapidly deteriorating. The State Conference Committee are meeting to work out details related to a proposed amendment to the State FY 21 Transportation Bond Bill which passed in the House version. State Representative Paul Mark said he was optimistic for a positive outcome to fund the reconstruction request in the Bond Bill which, for Rowe, could potentially mean a grant of \$900,000.00.

Covid-19 Updates: I have been in regular attendance at meetings with State officials regarding state efforts to manage and inform us about the pandemic response. Our Covid Group meets every Tuesday following a Dept. of Public Health meeting. We received a new shipment of personal protective equipment for emergency personnel and have some funds available through the CARES or Coronavirus Act Relief

Fund to cover expenses to manage expenses that were not budgeted and are a result of the virus and its impact.

Positions Open: The positions of the Treasurer and Town Nurse remain open and we are optimistic that they will be filled in the very near future.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to fill positions on various committees. Please check out the listings by visiting our town website and click on the 'About Rowe' tab and you will see the tab for 'Volunteer Opportunities' or contact Janice Boudreau or Paul McLatchy III for more details.

With the reopening of Rowe Elementary School on September 6 for 62 students, we wish them a healthy and safe school year.



photo by Janice Boudreau

Planning Board Seeks Fifth Member

The Rowe Planning Board is seeking a fifth member to serve until the May 2021 election. Among other things, the Planning Board is charged with reviewing and making recommendations on the town's zoning bylaws, approving/denying special permits, and working on formulating long-term plans for the town. Interested individuals should contact Chairman David Roberson at 413-339-4220."



Pond Road in process of getting paved



Rowe Fire Department on a mutual aid call to Colrain

Keeping your Internet Connection During a Power Outage

Submitted by David Dvore, Broadband MLP Manager

In most cases, it is possible to keep your internet and internet-based phone (VOIP) connected during a power outage. Most of the time, the fiber line is not broken, in which case all that is needed is to supply power to the connected equipment. In our Communications Hut, we have both battery and generator backup power to keep the equipment running continuously. Here are some things you need to know to provide backup power to the equipment in your home.

First, there are battery backups, often called “Uninterruptible Power Supplies” (UPS) because they provide continuous power without interruption when outside power is lost. These are available at electronics and office supply stores, department stores, and online retailers. They come in various capacities and can last from 1 hr to 24 hrs on a full charge depending on the capacity and how much power the connected equipment draws.

Then there are gas or propane powered generators. Some need to be connected manually, the more expensive ones can be set up to automatically start up and supply power to selected circuits in your house when outside power goes out. There is a short gap before the generator power kicks in. You can use a combination of UPS and generator to ensure no gap in power and sustain long outages. Backup generators usually need to be installed by professionals. Electricians and fuel suppliers usually can arrange installation.

What devices need backup power?

To maintain your internet connection, you'll need to provide backup power to your ONT and Router. The ONT is the small device mounted on an inside wall of the house where the fiber line comes in. It has some small lights on it and converts the incoming optical signal to an electrical ethernet signal. A cable connects that to the WiFi Router. The ones we supply are labelled SMART/RG, but some people have substituted their own WiFi Router. These two devices need power to maintain your internet connection, as well as whatever computers, TVs, or other equipment are being used on the internet.

If you also have our VOIP phone service, in addition to maintaining your internet connect with the ONT and Router as described above, you'll also need to supply power to the Ooma phone adapter (the black box with the funny blue light) and your phone equipment if it needs it.

In this recent storm, about 60 customers temporarily lost internet service, but only 4 of those were due to a broken fiber line. The others could have maintained service with backup power.

If you have trouble with your internet or VOIP phone service, contact tech support at 833-923-9378 | techsupport@wiredwestfiber.net . If you see a downed fiber line (our fiber lines have orange markers on them) contact dispatch at (413) 572-0000 or techsupport@whipcityfiber.com . Customer service is at 833-991-9378 | customerservice@wiredwestfiber.net .



Rowe Town Library News

Submitted by Molly Lane, Library Director

Library Hours (by appointment):

Tuesday & Wednesday 10-1,

Thursday 3-7

Saturday 10-12

We are so excited to be able to open our doors to the public again. Appointments are for one household at a time. So that could be just you or yourself and everyone that lives with you. These are 30 minute appointments, mask required, and in between we will sanitize all high touch surfaces before the next appointment. Please call us to set up your appointment time. We are still happily offering curbside pick up as well.

Also inter library loan is now allowing libraries to put holds in the delivery system which means you can start ordering books from other libraries again. We hope this helps us all feel a little better in these difficult times.

Programs:

**Our September Book Club
Selection:**
"Such A Fun Age"
by Kiley Reid.

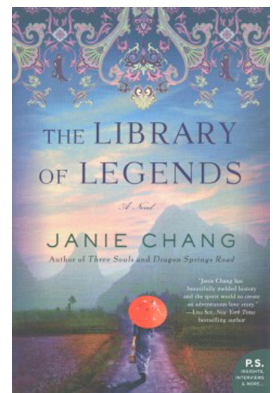
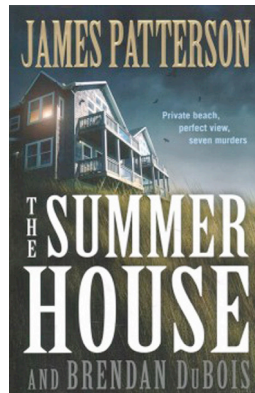
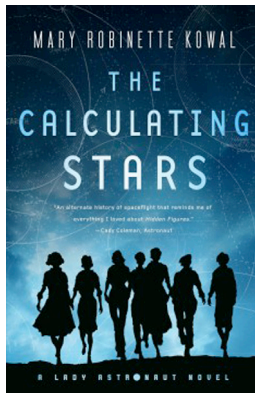
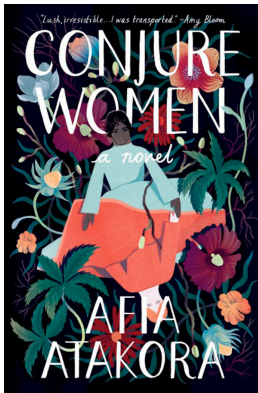
Meeting will be September 14th
at 3:30 outside at the library!

Please wear a mask...(chairs
will be set up with attention to
social distance rules)..

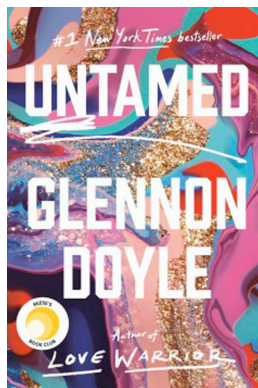
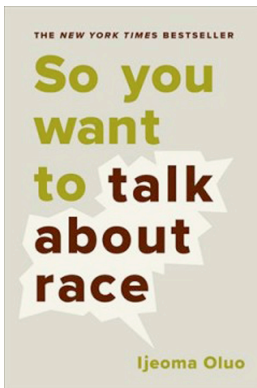


Some New Items This Month

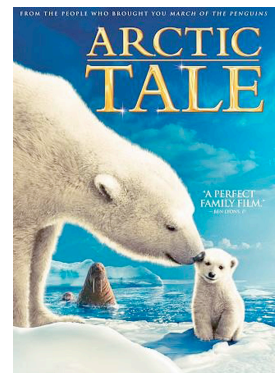
Adult Fiction:



Adult Non-Fiction:



DVDs:



Young Adult:



Kids:

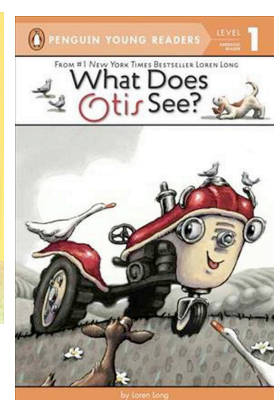
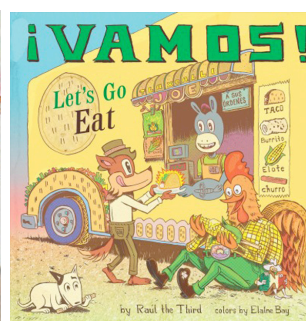
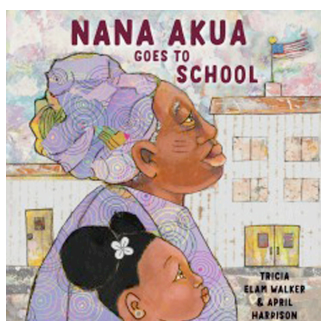




photo by Caitlyn Semanie

-Submitted by Sean Loomis, Park Manager

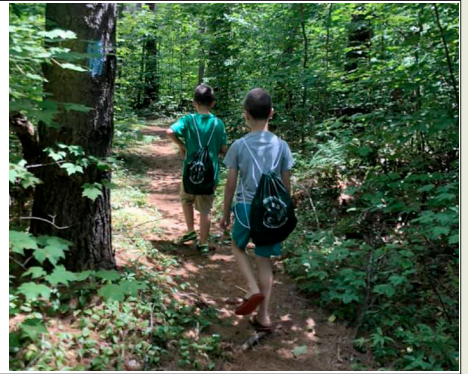
The ending of summer brings the completion of park projects, which have been keeping the park staff busy. Renovations in various locations along the Dead Moose trail have been part of an ongoing project all summer. The goal of these renovations is to make the trail smoother and more exciting to mountain bike, hike, and run. Also, the view along the Northwest View trail has been cleared out and cleaned up, so check it out on your way up to the top of the mountain and the lean to! Lastly, the park staff has been working on replacing the bog bridges on the Babbling Brook trail. The new bridges are similar to a boardwalk and will make it easier for users to navigate this section of the trail during all seasons.

In addition to the projects described above, here is a recap of the other projects that the park staff has completed over the season. The bathrooms and picnic tables at the beach area have all been painted and spruced up. The new reroute of the Adams Mountain Trail has been finished and begins at the junction of the Saddlebrook Trail and the Williams Trail. The staff has also replaced bog bridges on the Lake View Trail and completed bridge work on the Davenport Trail. Along with bridge work, the Davenport Trail drainage ditch has been cleaned and dug out to improve drainage and the overall quality of the trail. The park staff has also made temporary signs for all of the trails and the new permanent signs will be worked on later this fall and winter. The new signs will be made out of a ColorCore product and will hopefully be completed by next spring.

The park would like to thank all residents and their guests for being understanding during this crazy and unpredictable time. We have enjoyed seeing people getting outside and using the park, and appreciate your patience with the guidelines that were implemented this summer. New COVID-19 guidelines and park hours for the fall season will be decided on at the next Park Commission meeting. Stay tuned for more information!

The park would also like to extend a big thank you to all the summer employees: Emma Poplawski, Taylor Loomis, Nick Baker, Sean Clancy, Grace Poplawski, Bailey Cousineau, William Cowie, Weston Denouden, James Harrison, Danielle Beaumier and Hannah French.

The Rowe Summer Recreation program is complete after four single-week sessions of at-home nature study. Participants used tools and materials in Nature Observation Kits to complete a variety of themed activities each week. The topics in focus were patterns, insects, nature's defenses, and water. Program highlights included a virtual Q&A with an insect scientist, designing "Defensive Dens," and plenty of opportunities for participants to sharpen their observation skills. While this uniquely adapted program went well, we hope that next summer we will be able to offer a nature-based recreation program in person.



Horsebackriding rules for Park trails

The following trails are allowable for horses:

- Williams Trail
- Sabrina Rice Trail
- Davis Mine Loop Trail
- Davenport Trail
- 1792 Trail
- Old Kings Highway

Stay on designated & marked trails. Do not ride horses at a pace greater than a walk on muddy trails. You should cross rivers, creeks, or wetland only in designated areas to guard against adverse impact on the environment and for the safety of you and your horse. Do NOT cross on the wooden bridges as they are not safe for a horse & rider's weight. Good riding etiquette prevents land abuse and destruction.

All persons riding in the Park do so at their own risk.



If you are unfamiliar with the trails, please keep a copy of the Park map with you. Remember that there is no cell service in case of emergencies - always let someone know where you are going and what trails you are planning to take.

The Final Chapter of Fredericka's Reminiscence

Submitted by Joanne Semanie



"After church on a normal Sunday we had a quiet time and usually a picnic at the site of the old stone house north of the Wells' farm. There we enjoyed a good supper, laughed and joked with often a song or two. There was plenty of easy conversation and all the time a perfect view of the western sky and beautiful sunsets.

After haying time was over the Saturday routine changed a bit but nothing like airing and cleaning the church was omitted. We had to fit that in somehow because Saturday af-

ternoons were given over to the baseball games. Rowe's home team was recruited from Rowe. All games were played on the Tuttle flat. A home team from Whitingham, Charlemont, Heath, Readsboro and other near-by towns came to play the Rowe team. At other times, the Rowe team with most of its enthusiastic supporters visited one of the other teams. Everyone always had an interesting and exciting afternoon. The Rowe team had good players – Tuttles, Sibleys, Browns, Davenports and Farleys on it throughout the season.

Uncle Robert Wells was very apt to stop at Rocklawn and announce he was going to Slab City. Did we want anything from the store? He was the only one I knew who referred to the village as Slab City. He said when the store, post office and the new Town Hall was opened (1895), Rowe Village was quite generally called Slab City. The villagers did not appreciate the name, so it never caught on."



(The center of town may have been called Slab City because of the large sawmill located on the Mill Pond dam).

There was one big Rowe evening long remembered – a dance in the old Ford Hall. Someone thought it would be fun to once again have a dance in the old place. The big meeting hall on the second floor had a sprung floor and it was that floor that the young people were interested in. Of course, it fell to the Farleys to open, air and clean the hall. Finally dance night arrived and folks came from near and far. I don't remember who made up the orchestra, but Henry Wright called the dances – Morning Star, Speed the Plow, Money Musk, quadrilles and the lovely old waltzes as well. The evening started with a Grand March led by Mr. Edward Wright and Mrs. Farley. All the guests paired off and the march circled the hall all in fine spirits. The dances that followed lasted till sunrise. The old building had been a busy inn in its early years, then a busy town center, had wound up another part of its career in a burst of gayety.



Just one or two more memories that will remain just memories. On the green triangle where Ford Hill and Middletown Road crossed, the best wild strawberries one ever ate grew in great quantities. They were ripe and ready for picking around July 4. I am told that green oasis is greatly changed now as bulldozers and blasting crews have recently

been at work on this intersection. Also gone from The Center is the Snow Apple Tree – a beautiful tree whose apples ripened early and were so very good to eat.”

Fredericka Farley's stories remind us of how social people were in a time where we often think people might have been isolated. Phones, electronics, electricity was non-existent, yet people gathered on many occasions to share their lives. All night dances held to live music. Baseball games with a crowd connecting one town to another. Neighbors stopping in to visit unannounced. Up until a few years ago neighbors just popping in was common, a welcome little respite from the day to day chores to share a little gossip or a cup of tea. That seems to have fallen by the wayside with today's technology and the busy lives everyone has. The loss is palpable in many ways to those of us who remember it. That feeling of community has suffered. We are still fortunate to live in a place where everyone willingly knows their neighbors and if trouble occurs help will come with familiar faces.

The museum has many artifacts from the Farleys and photographs of the old buildings in town. If you'd like to schedule a visit contact us and we will give you a private, socially distanced tour.



ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This year continues to be one unlike any other, and that continues as we prepare to open for in-person learning on Tuesday, September 8th. The staff has been working over the summer to get ready to provide the best possible educational experience for students given the restrictions we are currently living under.

Here's a quick look at our plans for re-opening the school this fall. The first day of school for students is planned for Tuesday, September 8. We are planning to return for in-person learning, except for those families who opted for remote learning for their students in the most recent survey. A quick note about remote learning: It will be structured differently than in the spring. The teachers are working to create a remote learning plan that mirrors the in-school experience, so all students are getting (roughly) the same material.

In order to begin in-person learning in as safe a way as possible, each class (Primary, 3/4, and 5/6...we are not offering Preschool this year) is going to be its own "bubble". Each bubble will have dedicated teaching staff assigned to it (teachers and teaching assistants), and the students and staff will not mix with the other bubbles. There will be a

few adults who go between these groups, for nurse or special education-related reasons, etc., but that crossover will be minimized. Each class will have two indoor learning spaces, and a tented, outdoor learning space. Over the course of the school day, students will move between their three spaces as directed by the teachers. Lunch, recess, and specials will also be only with their group.

Unless it's an emergency, we are not allowing family members (or other adults) into the building. Students will have assigned seats on the bus. Between the number of students in each class, and the space that we have available inside and outside the building, we are in as good a position as possible to offer in-person learning for students while adhering to the State's guidelines for safety.

As I've said before, I know the Rowe School staff is the right group to handle this challenge in a positive and child-based way. These past five+ months have been challenging for all of us. It's been hard on our families, having to juggle having students at home with the need to work, it has been hard on the staff as they try to provide what students and families need in this unprecedented situation, and it has been hard on the students, their routine has been upended, they haven't been able to

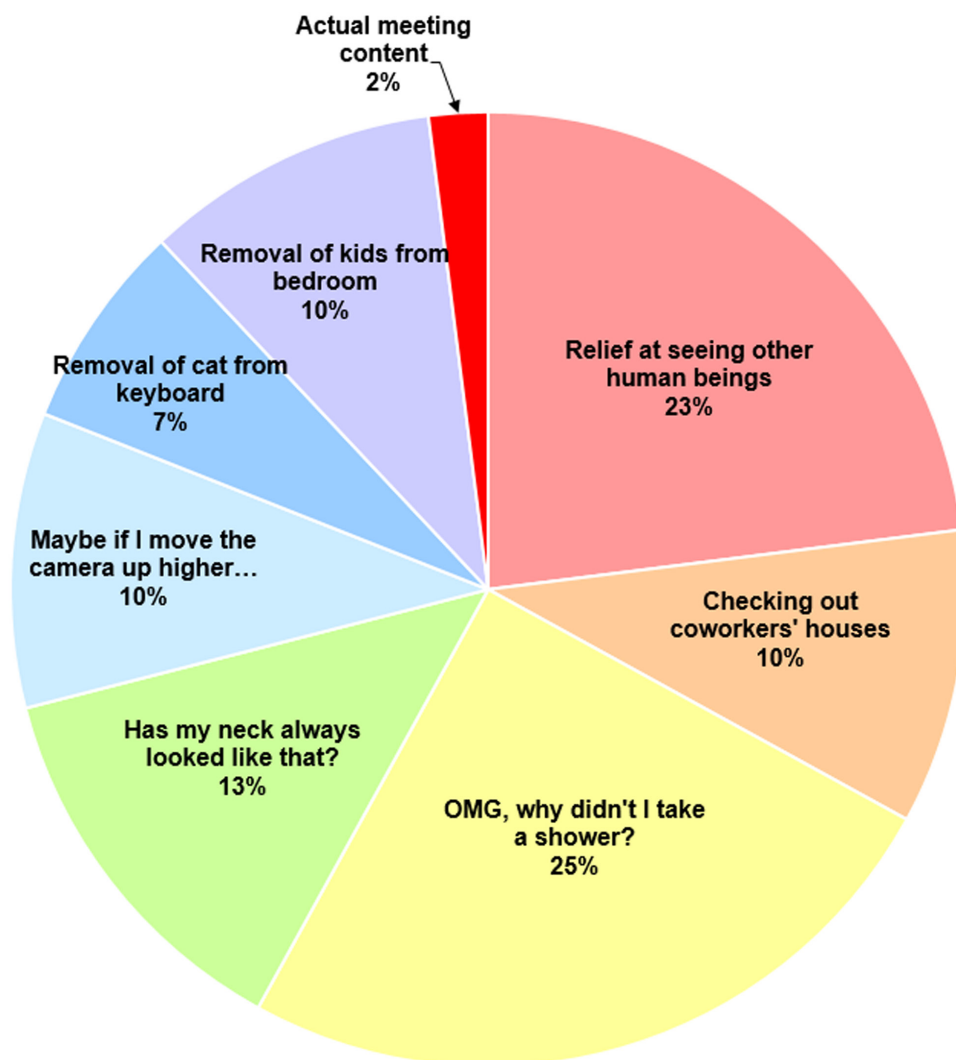
see their friends or the teachers and staff they depend on. And as we move back to in-person learning, it is going to be especially challenging for the teaching staff, who are both trying to keep the children safe and provide them with something close to a normal school experience, knowing that nothing about this is normal. The staff is trying their best to manage both the safety and education aspects of this challenge, and we are looking forward to partnering with our families to make this work.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me at 413-512-5201. You can also email me at wknittle@roweschool.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

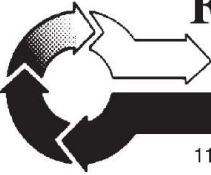
-Submitted by Bill Knittle



Diagram of Zoom Meeting Attention Span



REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is planning to hold the 2020 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 26th at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 18th. Online pre-registration for the 2020 collection will begin in mid-August. Online registration forms may be completed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. Paper registration forms will be available in late August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers.

Due to COVID-19, safety protocols and waste restrictions will be in place. Participants will be required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed. Materials that will not be collected this year include all types of batteries, thermometers, and thermostats. These items can be brought to most town transfer stations year-round.

Fluorescent bulbs will not be accepted at this collection. Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), are accepted at all municipal transfer stations in the county. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most member towns. Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

For more information, contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438 or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

**Build Community
Immunity!**

**HAWLEMONT
REGION EDS**

**Drive-Through
Flu Clinic**



**Saturday,
Sept 26, 2020
9:00 - 11:00AM**

**Charlemont
Fairgrounds**

**Kids: Injectable or MIST
65: High- Dose available**

**Bring your
insurance cards
and forms!**

**available at
www.FRCOG.org
if no insurance:
\$20 adults \$10**

**Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Cooperative Public Health Service**



For updates and information, contact:

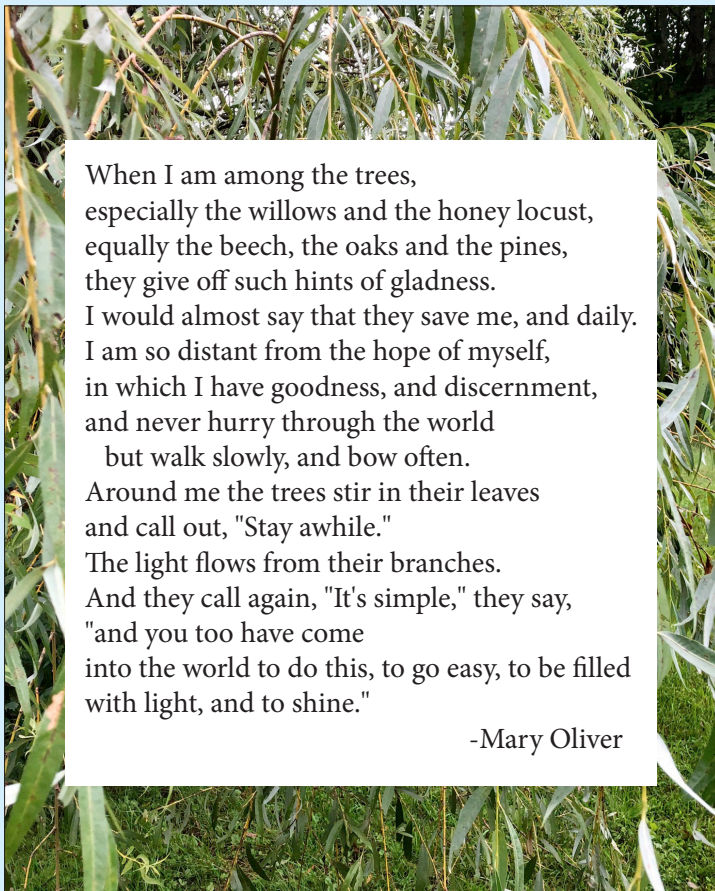
Lisa White, R.N., Regional Public Health Nurse

(413) 665-1400 x114

<http://frcog.org/flu-clinic/>



Night photo of Saturn, Jupiter & the moon over Pelham Lake by Steve Provost



When I am among the trees,
 especially the willows and the honey locust,
 equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
 they give off such hints of gladness.
 I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
 I am so distant from the hope of myself,
 in which I have goodness, and discernment,
 and never hurry through the world
 but walk slowly, and bow often.
 Around me the trees stir in their leaves
 and call out, "Stay awhile."
 The light flows from their branches.
 And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
 "and you too have come
 into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
 with light, and to shine."

-Mary Oliver

Rowe Community Church

Submitted by Ros Mulette

All are welcome to join us in worship
 on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

September	6	Worship & Praise Service & Observance of The Lord's Supper
	13	Worship & Praise Service
	20	Worship & Praise Service
	27	Worship & Praise Service

Bible Studies are held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. All service & studies are held at the church building and by phone conference calls.

September Birthdays

- 1 - Ramon Sanchez
- 2 - Susan Wood
- 3 - Martha Rossi
- 4 - Robert Clancy
- 5 - Ryan Burke
- 5 - Christopher Tatro
- 6 - Helen Danek
- 6 - Andrew Kuehl
- 9 - Karen Markert
- 9 - David Poehlein
- 9 - Madison Roccio
- 9 - Ryan Shattuck
- 11 - Divina Urena
- 12 - Douglas Wilson
- 13 - Thomas Plante
- 14 - Loretta Dionne
- 14 - Karen Soviecke
- 14 - Wendy Sutherland
- 15 - Heidi Cousineau
- 15 - Tiffany Reardon
- 16 - Nicholas Baker
- 19 - Jordan Rice
- 22 - Brian Ash
- 22 - Deborah Katz
- 22 - Lance Larned
- 22 - Jillian Crowningshield
- 23 - Kevin Sprague
- 23 - Robert Avallone
- 25 - Jocelyn Crowningshield
- 25 - John Rose-Fish
- 28 - Debra Crowningshield
- 28 - Ann Grieco
- 29 - Jenna Crowningshield

If you would like to add or remove a name from this list, please contact me at:
GoalPostEditor@gmail.com

Town Services

<u>Accountant</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>9:00-12:00 (or by appt)</u>	<u>339-5520 x12</u>
<u>Admin Assistant</u>	<u>M,T,Th,F</u>	<u>8:00-12:00,12:30-4:30</u>	<u>339-5520 x10</u>
<u>Assessor's Clerk</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>3:30-5:30pm</u>	<u>339-5520 x15</u>
<u>Fire Station</u>	<u>Emergency - 911</u>		<u>329-4001</u>
<u>Executive Secretary</u>	<u>Mon-Thurs</u>	<u>9:30-5:00</u>	<u>339-5520 x11</u>
<u>Fitness Ctr</u>	<u>Mon-Fri</u>	<u>8:00-5:00</u>	<u>339-5520 x21</u>
<u>FRTA Sr. Bus</u>	<u>Tuesdays</u>	<u>9:00</u>	<u>774-2262 x103</u>
<u>Historical Society</u>	<u>(by Appt)</u>		<u>339-4238</u>
<u>Library</u>	<u>Tues, Sat 10:00-5:00, Wed 10:00-8:00</u>		<u>339-4761</u>
<u>Park</u>	<u>Mon- Friday</u>		<u>339-8554</u>
<u>Police Dept</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>5:30-7:30pm</u>	<u>339-8340</u>
<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Mon-Fri 12:15-4:15, Sat 8:30-11:30</u>		<u>339-5390</u>
<u>Rowe School</u>	<u>Mon-Friday</u>	<u>8:00-3:15</u>	<u>512-5100</u>
<u>Tax Collector</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>8:00-2:00</u>	<u>339-5520 x19</u>
<u>Town Clerk</u>	<u>M,T,Th,Fr</u>	<u>7:00-8:00am, 4:30-5:30pm</u>	<u>339-5520 x14</u>
<u>Town Garage</u>	<u>Mon-Thurs</u>	<u>6:30-4:30</u>	<u>339-5588</u>
<u>Town Nurse</u>	<u>Mon,Wed,Fri</u>	<u>9:00-5:00</u>	<u>339-5520 x20</u>
<u>Transfer St.</u>	<u>Wed 7-10am, 4-7pm</u> <u>Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12</u>		<u>339-0216</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>			<u>339-5520 x16</u>

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